the Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements their efforts by the way of various developmental interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes, which cover education, health, skill development, income generation, community development and infrastructure for income generation etc. In the last 3 years the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has spent the amount given below for achieving these objectives for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes.

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	1647.37
2007-08	1524.32
2008-09	1806.51

UNESCO's comments on ICDS

3338. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has criticized India's Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) on the ground that States with the worst malnutrition in the country have the lowest coverage of ICDS programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the programme fails to preferentially target girls, children from lower castes and the poor; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) In the Report, UNESCO has observed certain inadequacies of ICDS, which appear to suffer from factual and contextual inaccuracies.

(b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme covers all children, including girls in the age group of 0-6 years and Pregnant and Lactating mothers, irrespective of their economic, social and gender status.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Plan for poor and weaker women

†3339. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made a plan to improve the basic support system of the poor and weaker women; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.